

**Amendment and Response**

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Serial No.: 10/669,384

Confirmation No.: 3937

Filed: September 24, 2003

For: METHODS FOR FORMING CONDUCTIVE STRUCTURES REGARDING SAME

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**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed 15 December 2005 has been received and reviewed. Claim 88 has been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, the pending claims are claims 67-114, with claims 96-114 being withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks provided herein.

**Claim Amendments**

Claim 88 has been amended to make it clear that the selective oxidation of the ruthenium layer is by diffusion of oxygen through the platinum layer. The amendment of claim 88 is intended to clarify the claim, however, the scope of the claim is intended to be the same after the amendment as it was before the amendment.

**The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection**

The Examiner rejected claim 88 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Yang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,537). The Examiner alleges that all the elements of claim 88 are shown therein. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. However, claim 88 has been amended to make it clear that "selective oxidation" as used in claim 88 refers to oxidation of the ruthenium layer by diffusion of oxygen through the platinum layer.

The Examiner has indicated in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance that Yang et al. does not teach diffusion of oxygen through the platinum layer to oxidize the ruthenium layer. Even though Applicant believed that claim 88 was allowable as originally filed, claim 88 was amended to provide clarification thereof. As amended, it should be clear that claim 88 is not anticipated by Yang et al. In particular, Yang et al. does not show selective oxidation of the ruthenium layer by diffusion of oxygen through the platinum layer.

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**Allowable Subject Matter**

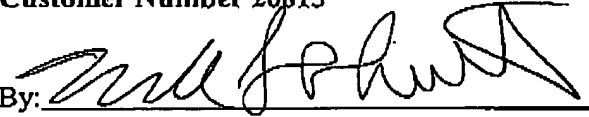
Applicants further acknowledge that claims 67-87 have been allowed and that claims 89-95 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants at this time have not rewritten such claims in independent form as it is believed that the amendment to claim 88 puts this claim into allowable form and all the objected to claims are, directly or indirectly, dependent therefrom.

**Summary**

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted By  
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17 April 2006  
Date

By:   
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Transmittal Letter and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 17th day of April, 2006, at 1:50 pm (Central Time).

By: Name: Sam E. Wiggant

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